

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method to allow scalability of file storage in terms of capacity and performance through a symmetric multicomputer architecture with shared storage, in which storage and protocol processing resources can be added to (or removed from) the system without any need of recognizing and/or explicitly migrating the data stored in the system. 5 The invention permits accessing files stored (i.e., written) in any of multiple external protocol processing nodes to be retrieved from any other external protocol processing node.

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